Hey

33 messages

Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 19:09
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

Hey sup,

Got home from work, about an hour ago, and my water doesn't work. Damn pipes are frozen. Yesterday, the wind chill was fucking -32 degrees!

Anyway, how things going with you?

Got RDR2 (Red Dead) about two weeks ago and that's been consuming pretty much all my time. I've gotta say the game is pretty fucking awesome. The pace is pretty damn slow (I thought it was in the first one, too), but Jesus is the game immersive, maybe the most immersive game I've ever played. It really is like a cowboy/outlaw virtual simulator. The graphics are pretty gorgeous, and from the hunting and fishing to just every day stuff like clothes and food, there's a ton to keep yourself occupied.

Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 23, 2019 at 12:09
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

You should run the water when it get's that cold. My father says try to heat the pipes slowly with a heater if you can. He says you got to heat the pipes or they will burst.

Things could be better honestly. I essentially work so my sister can sit on her ass all day. She didn't do her papaerwork for disability so now she owes $16,000 to the federal government. She has no interest in finding a job and my parents don't want to deal with her, so of course it's apparently my repsonsibility to pay all off the bills so that I'm penniless and have no opportunity to uild a life of my own. But, as long as she gets a free ride it's all good I guess....

The weather is good. It's like low 70s today. I spend a lot of my time at the driving range working on my swing. I really like golf, it's a lot of fun.

I don't know if I'll get a next gen console. They are way too fucking expensive. I've been playing Skyrim over the last few weeks. Did the Dark Brotherhood and the Thieves Guild. I'm enjoying it, but not like I used to. I just don't have much patience for videogames these days. I had heard RDR2 is good though. I tried to get into the first one, but it's too much back and forth.
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 23, 2019 at 22:36
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

Jesus... she owes sixteen grand? That's fucking nuts, and it's bullshit that you have to work to support--not only yourself--but also your goddamn sister. She's what now? Over forty? How the hell did that become your responsibility (not that she should be anyone's responsibility except herself, including your parents). Yeah, that does sound worse than my situation.

The water here is fucked--there's a big-ass three story barn behind the house, and my water somehow comes through a well and then goes through the barn's basement before reaching the house. The landlord stopped by last night and we set up a couple of portable heaters that ran on propane down there--we did it last winter too, when it was really cold. It worked. The water came back on a little after midnight, and I've been running the bathroom

faucet--just a trickle--ever since. It was my own damn fault, I knew to run the water, but I forgot and just turned it off. It's instinct, when you turn the faucet off.

I know what you mean about not having patience anymore for video games, I get that too, at least with games I've already played. Too bad you're not getting a next gen console, but honestly at this point you probably should wait anyway 'cause a new console generation probably isn't that far around the corner.

Yeah, RDR2 has to be one of my favorite openworld games, now. Don't get me wrong--there's a lot riding back and forth, that hasn't changed, and the fast-travel system in it's a bitch. The pace is really slow, but in some ways I think that actually helps the game.
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 24, 2019 at 11:40
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

She has no ambition, it's like she wants to be an old lady. Her hypochondria is ten times worse. She thinks she has every disease known to man.

Well, that's good you got the water back. It would've sucked if they burst. We're having some cray weather this morning. Already had two tornado warnings. It poured like a monsoon.

I don't know what it is, maybe it's my age is getting to me. I mean I'm old enough to run for President and I still have nothing. I can't believe I've been down here two years already, it's kind of freaking me out.
[Quoted text hidden]

Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 25, 2019 at 18:05
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

Yep, you're 35, and I'll be later on this year. Not like I have much more to show for it than you--I wouldn't exactly describe my existence as happy or what I expected (it's what I've *come* to expect, though)...

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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 22, 2019 at 11:28
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

Do you have any vacation time available? You should come down before it gets too hot. I'll buy your plane ticket.
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 1, 2019 at 17:43
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

Hey, sorry for the delay. Haven't been on in a while and it's been shitty--I have had no water since Tuesday. At first I just assumed the pipes were frozen again--not a big deal, last time we have water back in a couple of hours.

Well... both my landlord and his son are plumbers, and they say nope. It's some problem with the well. Who knows when I'll have water again.

Anyway, I don't have any vacation days currently accrued--I use me earned time up calling out. I definitely want to come down there this year and visit. But why would you buy my plane ticket? You just get your taxes back or something? How's it going down there.
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 5, 2019 at 14:52
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

Did you find out what your water problem is? That's fucked man. Your landlord needs to get on that.

I was just saying if money was the issue I'd have no prolem buying you a ticket. I think it would be good for your psyche if you come down. The one thing I'll say about Florida is it has made me healthier physically and mentally. I haven't had a cigarette in out eight or nine months.

Things are ok right now. Aside from funding my sister's lifestyle choices, of course. Both of my parents just had surgery a few weeks ago so I've been tending to them. Other than that, when I'm not working I've taken up golf. I play with my dad, but since he's laid up I go to the range once, sometimes twice a week. It's a great stress reliever. I need work on my drive, but I'm pretty nasty with an iron.

I'm going to get a weekday annual pass for Disney. It's like $400 and you can go to one of four Disney parks on any week day year round.
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 6, 2019 at 19:29
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

Are your parents okay? What'd they have surgery for?

I mean, it is partially an issue with money, but I still don't think you should have to purchase my ticket. It's not *that* expensive and I should be able to afford it myself, just not at the current moment.\

I had no idea you'd quit smoking. That's awesome, dude! Congrats! I wish I would get on that and quit already.

Apparently, the pipes weren't frozen (what we first understandably assumed, it was super-cold her Tuesday night, and woke up Wednesday morning without any water). It was an issue with a fuse or something with the well? I'm still not clear what the issue was, exactly. It didn't get fixed until Saturday afternoon. Went a couple of days without running water--man, that sucked.

Man... I'll tell you, Red Dead Redemption II was pretty great (still have another mission or two before I beat the narrative completely--been playing it straight for over two months now!). I've played a lot of Rockstar games and beaten my fair share. I've beaten: San Andreas, Bully, GTA IV and V, Red Dead I and LA Noir. They're all great games, but I don't know if I'd say I loved any of them... except maybe Bully. I don't know why, but I've always had a lot of affection for that game.

MAYBE RED DEAD SPOILER AHEAD!

I might love Red Dead II. I'm still too close to it; it's too fresh, I need some distance to gain perspective, but I don't know if I've ever been moved by a character's death so much in a video game. Ever. It's not surprising when it happens (afterall, the main character isn't in the first one, and it's a prequel), but it still upset me a lot. I wasn't nearly this upset when Command Shepard died in Mass Effect Three.

I didn't think any game this generation would ever beat out Witcher 3 for me, and I don't think Red Dead will either, but it definitely gave it a run for its money.

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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 11:44
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

My dad had surgery on his stomach because he had a hiatal hernia, and my mother damaged her rotator cuff in her shoulder.

I wouldn't have a problem helping you come down for a visit, if you needed it.

I started getting Asthma last summer. I couldn't breathe in the humidity. So, I took the patch. It work amazing, I wish I had tried it sooner. You get almost no cravings.
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 18:18
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

Hmm. I actually got some patches about a year ago, but haven't used them. I hope they don't lose their potency.

Well, I'm glad neither your dad's or mom's surgery sounds that serious. Send them my best.

You write anything lately? Come up with any new ideas? I think the last thing I heard from you was about your hard-scifi world you were creating in our solar system.
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Sat, Mar 16, 2019 at 12:23
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

Sorry, I meant to get back to you sooner, I've been working a lot of overtime.

I haven't written anything, yet. I just don't have a lot of free time, but I haven't given up on the concept. I really like the 2984 idea. You?
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Wed, Apr 10, 2019 at 17:44
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

I'm super sorry how late this is, I thought I already responded and was just reminding you that it's Jake's birthday today.

I've been writing a little bit but nothing completed or with much potential. I had a recent idea for a short story where employers are replacing their employees with doppelganger drones, but haven't worked out any specifics or mechanics of the plot. It probably won't amount to anything.
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Tue, Apr 16, 2019 at 14:02
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

You never know. I haven't given up on 298. I think about it all the time. Problem is, I have no privacy, I don't even have my own room. My sister hovers over me all day cause she smoeks pot like it's crack.... On top of that I have this incredible procrastination problem, like like I'm developing an extreme case of ADD the older I get. I'm trying to get treated but my insurance is such shit, I have a $2,000 deductible before I am even covered.
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Fri, May 3, 2019 at 11:28
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

Hey man, what's new?

I just watched Endgame and the last Game of Thrones. I have to say, I was kinda disappointed with both. Especially Game of Thrones.
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

Tue, May 14, 2019 at 08:11

To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

I haven't seen Endgame yet, so please no spoilers.

What do you mean by the last Game of Thrones? Was it the big battle at Winterfell? I was disappointed with that, too, but I heard Endgame was great.
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Sat, May 25, 2019 at 10:25
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

Hey, how 's it going? Sorry for the late reply. What's new with you?

They took a giant shit on Game of Thrones. I get it had to end some way, but a little more explanation as to why they did what they did would have been nice.
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 6, 2019 at 20:28
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

Well, I still haven't watched the last two episodes, so thank you for not spoiling anything (seriously). I'll watch them... eventually, but aren't in much rush from what I've heard.
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Wed, Jun 26, 2019 at 10:34
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

Hey man, sorry I haven't been in contact much lately. Kind of been drowning in depression. A lot going on, and yet I'm not getting anywhere fast. I've been thinking of you a lot lately. I do worry about you. So I hope things are going well for you. Also, I don't know if I ever had a chance to thank you for all you did for me, but thank you. That was a dark path of my life and I don't know where I'd be if you weren't there. Anyway, I guess I'm being sentimental and shit, it's quite lonely down here. I hope things are well.
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Sun, Jul 14, 2019 at 12:30
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

Hey, is everything all right? I haven't heard from you in a while.
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Fri, Aug 2, 2019 at 17:37
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

Hey, sorry I haven't been around in forever. I need to do a better job at checking in.

Yeah, everything's fine. Hope everything is okay with you too--but honestly, I think you did way for me than the other way around. God knows what I would've done without the whole Simons family.

On a positive note, I've semi-quit drinking for over a year now... I'll go weeks or months without having a single drink. On occasion I'll buy a pint or have some beers, but in over a year I bet it's been less than twenty times, maybe as little as ten times, that I've done it. I think my face is slightly less bloated since I quit. And it's good to know that if I *do* drink, it's not like some super-bender where I drink for weeks.
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Wed, Aug 7, 2019 at 10:54
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

It's good to hear from you.

That's really great that you cut down on your drinking. Maybe I don't voice it enough, but I do worry about you. You are family to me.

So, what's new? How has your summer been? The humidity is brutal down here.
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Mon, Aug 12, 2019 at 08:43
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

Yeah, summer's been shit, pretty boring. Same old shit.

I don't think I could deal with summers in Florida. I'm sure you get used to it, to an extent, but yeah, I couldn't deal with it. Wouldn't mind being a snowbird, though. Come down for the winters, spend the summers in New England.
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Fri, Aug 16, 2019 at 12:06
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

I like living down here. It's lonely if anything, but certainly no shortage of things to do. I just bought an annual pass to 4 Disney parks, which includes free parking. I can literally walk in anytime I want. I'm gonna buy a Universal one eventually too.
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Fri, Aug 16, 2019 at 18:25
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

You been to that Star Wars part of Disney yet?

I would also like to visit Universal for their Harry Potter world.
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Mon, Aug 19, 2019 at 12:20
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

Galaxy's Edge opens the 29th. Though they have had some private showings.

The Harry Potter world is pretty sick. Not gonna lie. I'm not the biggest fan of the series, but the attention to detail is pretty epic. I'm definitely going to get an annual pass for Universal as well.

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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Mon, Aug 19, 2019 at 12:22
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

Do you still have that email of all that sci-fi stuff I compiled. I'd like to look over it if it hasn't been lost to google netherworld.
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Tue, Aug 20, 2019 at 07:33
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

Yeah, I gotta have it somewhere, but will have to hunt for it. I can't imagine I'd delete it, but you don't have it in your sent box? Do you know around when you would've sent it?
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Tue, Aug 20, 2019 at 10:47
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

I was trying to find it from previous conversations, but no such luck. It's just as well I suppose. I should probably start researching this shit again. I haven't given up on the idea. I just realied like most of my ideas, it's too big to just wing it. I need research and notes.
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Sat, Aug 24, 2019 at 11:57
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

I dunno if it's too big to wing out -- I just wouldn't start out writing some trilogy or something. Just right some short stories that exist in the same universe to start building up to something and working out the kinks. If something changes you can just go back and adjust the story. Maybe have a character re-appear in two or three stories, have them mingle. Stuff like that. I think it'd be easier to try tackling short narratives than some magnum opus.

I'm taking a look to see if I can find it now...
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Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com> Sat, Aug 24, 2019 at 12:00
To: Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com>

Oh, also, really impressive piano cover of Paranoid Android here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXvzp3YKJ1Q

And Danger Mouse, the producer of Demon Days, made a group called Broken Bells with the lead singer of the shins. The first song sounds like it could be on Demon Days:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mojL3wAfuCA

And I also like this other song be them:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBCm8abnHl8

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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Sat, Aug 24, 2019 at 12:42
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

I'm considering writing it in a similar fashion to World War Z. I haven't started writing it, but I am compiling notes on characters, locations, and even a timeline of key events. Essentially, Earth is overpopulated and desperately scarce on resources. To rectify this, Earth's government, a socialist state, demanded that the means of production must be seized on the colony worlds without compensation towards it's inhabitants. This of course enrages the inhavitants of said worlds.
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Stephen Simons <stephenj.simons83@gmail.com> Sat, Aug 24, 2019 at 12:44
To: Dan o'neill <afxdan@gmail.com>

I'll give them a listen tomorrow. Getting ready to leave for another 12hour shift. Sucks. I'm starting to loath this

job. Our management has no accountability.
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